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COST OF LIVING IN HUNGARY

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The following table shows commodity retail prices in Budapest in 1938, 1948, and 1952:

	Unit of Measure	31 Dec 1938 (in pengos)	31 Dec 1948 (in forints)	31 Dec 1952 (in forints)
Bread	kg	0.38	1.00	2.80
Flour	"	0.40	2.60	4.60
Beef	"	2.10	8.40	21-34
Pork	"	1.94	13.85	28-35
Lard	"	1.54	19.80	50.00
Rice	"	0.98	8.60	22.00
Milk	liter	0.30	1.60	5.50
Cream	"	1.15	6.50	18.00
Eggs	ea	0.07	1.10	2.50
Coffee	kg	10.00	--	300.00
Tea	"	22.00	--	250.00
Potatoes	"	0.11	0.66	6.00
Beans	"	0.41	2.10	12-16.40
Peas	"	0.50	2.10	12-16
Sugar	"	1.06	6.00	12.60
Table oil	liter	1.20	5.70	24-28
Women's rayon combinations	ea	4.90	51.20	103.00
Women's dress material (70 cm wide)	meter	3.40	31.40	110.00
Men's socks	pr	0.78	7.00	25-35
Men's shirts	ea	4.00	31.90	120-140
Men's suits	"	68.00	415.00	1,000.00
Men's shoes	pr	18.50	115.00	650.00
Women's shoes	"	19.00	93.00	360.00
Soap	kg	0.78	7.20	28-35

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Under the 1946 monetary reform, 3 forints equals one pengo. As shown by the foregoing table, commodity retail prices increased not only between 1938 and 1948 but also between 1948 and 1952.

The following table shows monthly wages in 1938 and in 1953. The 1938 figures were taken from the *Ungarisches Wirtschaftsjahrbuch* (Hungarian Economic Yearbook) for 1952, and figures for the first months of 1953 were obtained from Hungarian newspapers and from emigres.

	1938 (in pengos)	1953 (in forints)
Skilled industrial workers	150.00	700.00
Unskilled industrial workers	95.25	650.00
Skilled metallurgical workers	175.00	1,000.00
Unskilled metallurgical workers	--	800.00
Day laborers	100.00	600.00
Miners	127.50	1,200.00

According to *Statistikai Szemle* (Statistical Review), the 1938 "commodity basket," containing the necessary food per worker per week? cost 6.35 pengos in Budapest and 5.65 pengos in provincial cities. This commodity basket contained the following: 2.8 kilograms of bread, 0.5 kilogram of flour, 0.17 kilogram of butter, 0.45 kilogram of veal, 0.20 kilogram of pork, 0.20 kilogram of beef, 0.20 kilogram of lard, 1.5 kilograms of potatoes, 0.45 kilogram of sugar, 0.10 kilogram of cheese, 0.20 kilogram of rice, 2.4 liters of milk, 3.5 eggs, 0.20 kilogram of noodles, 0.10 kilogram of peas, and 0.10 kilogram of beans. The same amount of food costs 106.18 forints in Budapest today.

In 1938, a worker earning 95.25 pengos per month spent 28.57 pengos, 30 percent of his wages, on food. In 1953, a worker earning 650 forints per month paid 478.8 forints, 73.5 percent of his wages, for the same amount of food.

It may be added that a captain of the state security police is paid 3,277 forints per month, or nearly three times the monthly wages of a miner.

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